Characteristics of Organisms

K-2 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of organisms. (Life Science)

K-2.5 Recognize that all organisms go through stages of growth and change called life cycles.

Taxonomy level: 1.1-A Remember Factual Knowledge

Previous/Future knowledge: As with other indicators at this grade level, students will experience their first formal introduction to important science concepts. Students will expand on this knowledge with plants in 1st grade (1-2.4) where the stages of the life cycle are summarized, and animals in 2nd grade (2-2.5) where birth and stages of development are illustrated.

It is essential for students to know that all organisms change as they grow. The distinct stages of growth and change are called a *life cycle*. The life cycle begins when the organism is born and begins to develop and ends when the organism dies.

- Some plants, for example sunflowers, start as seeds. When the seeds have all of the things they needs to grow (air, water, and space), they begin to change into plants. The plants will grow into adult plants with distinct structures (for example roots and leaves).
- Some animals, for example chickens, are born from eggs. When the chicks hatch, they will grow into adult hens or roosters.
- Some animals, for example ladybugs, look different during the different stages their life cycle.

It is not essential for students to go beyond this level of knowledge at this time.

Assessment Guidelines:
The objective of this indicator is to *recognize* that all organisms have life cycles; therefore, the primary focus of assessment should be to remember that there are stages of growth during a life cycle of an organism.